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Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know, Sir, which are the sections which are likely to be closed by the Director of Industries or by the Industries Department ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Nothing has yet been settled."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I ask, Sir, whether if that has not been decided as yet, he will be pleased to consult public opinion, particularly, the opinion of the Council with regard to the closure of such sections ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" That is a matter yet under the consideration of Government. We have had several committees and conferences and the Government have not yet come to any conclusions. Their recommendations are being considered by Government now."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" In view of the fact that the Industrial Commission has recommended the appointment of a gentleman with technical knowledge and also this House has insisted time and again to appoint an Indian, technically qualified, may I know how long since Government have been considering the necessity of putting in a man with technical qualifications, instead of keeping it for officials as a stop-gap ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" As I have already said there was no occasion for us to think of the matter. When the present incumbent vacates his office, the whole question will be considered in all its aspects."

Enquiry into the condition of the textile industry in the Presidency.

* 1099 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) (1) whether Government have appointed a Committee to enquire into the present condition and the future of the textile industry in this Presidency and if so, who its members are and what the points are on which enquiry is to be made ; (2) under what authority, how and from what source the expenses are to be met ;

(b) whether the Committee includes representatives of the Spinners and Weavers' Associations and Sangams, which have experience of the industries, and if not, why not ;

(c) how many meetings of the Committee have been held, and where ;

(d) what the results of the deliberations are ; and

(e) what measures Government have decided or propose to take for promoting the textile industry ?

A.—(a) No Committee with any definite terms of reference has been appointed. The hon. Minister has however convened a Conference of the following hon. Members of the Legislative Council and non-official gentlemen with a view to consulting them on the working of the Textile section and consider the line of future progress and development :—

(1) M.R.Ry. N. Sivaraj Avargal, M.L.C.
(2) " B. Ramachandra Reddi Avargal, M.L.C.
(3) " C. Gopala Menon Avargal, M.L.C.

(4) M.R.Ry. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar Avargal, M.L.C.
(5) ,, P. T. Kumaraswami Chettiyar Avargal.
(6) Mr. Leslie Coles.
(7) Mr. G. Brunschweiller.
(8) Hajee Abdur Raheem Sahib Bahadur.

The expenses of the committee will comprise the travelling allowance of the mufassal gentlemen attending the meetings of the Conference and they are not expected to exceed Rs. 350. The amount will be met from savings in the Industries Budget.

(*b*) None of the gentlemen appear to be directly connected with any association or sangam, but they have been chosen as being likely to give helpful advice to Government. Mr. P. T. Kumaraswami Chettiyar however belongs to the weaver community and takes a great interest in weavers' associations.

(*c*) Two—in the Fort St George.

(*d*) The deliberations have not yet been concluded.

(*e*) These will be formulated after the Conference concludes its sittings.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know, Sir, whether since the reply was sent to the Council office, any recommendations of the Committee have been received by Government ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Some suggestions have been received from the non-official Members who were members of the conference."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I know whether all the recommendations have been received or not ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" I don't think any more recommendations will come."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I ask the hon. Minister what action the Government have taken on those recommendations ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" They are now under the consideration of Government."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Are the Government consulting the Director of Industries and other expert officers in connexion with these recommendations ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" The Director of Industries has been consulted."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, if this conference considered the question relating to hand-spinning and, if they have not considered the question, whether they would consider it at all ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" They have considered the question of hand-loom industry."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" I am asking about hand-spinning."

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Hand-spinning also, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" What was it that they considered in that connexion ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Notice, Sir "

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Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU :—" Will the Government be pleased to publish the recommendations of the conference ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" That will be considered."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know whether the conference have recommended that the Textile Expert should be made a Deputy Director ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" I believe it is one of the recommendations, Sir."

Publication of bulletins by the Industries Department.

* 1100-A *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Department of Industries is publishing any bulletins ;

(*b*) if so, whether Government will be pleased to place them before the Council ;

(*c*) whether there is any proposal to place them at the disposal of the public ; and if not, why not ; and

(*d*) whether the Government will be pleased to supply them to such members of the Legislative Council as may want them or place them in the Legislative Council Library ; and if not, why not ?

A.—(*a*) Yes. The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 265 asked by him at the meeting held on the 8th September 1928 which contains a list of the bulletins issued by the Industries Department.

(*b*) & (*d*) A set of the bulletins issued by the department and which are at present in stock is placed in the Legislative Council Library. The Director of Industries has been requested to send regularly to the Library in future copies of bulletins that may be issued hereafter.

(*c*) They are already available for sale at the Government Press.

Agricultural and Industrial Bulletins issued by the Government.

* 1100-B *Q.*—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any journals, leaflets, or bulletins are being issued by the Government embodying the results of experiments and research work carried on in agriculture, fisheries and industries ; and

(*b*) if not, whether they have any intention of doing so in the near future ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 265 on the 8th September 1928.

Public Works

Allotment of portions in official residences for the reception of visitors.

* 1101-A *Q.*—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the report called for from the Chief Engineer (General, Roads and Buildings) regarding the list of the residences of officers in which portions have had to be set aside by the officers concerned for the reception of the official and non-official visitors visiting them on business and in respect of which consequently a portion of the capital cost has had to be written off, has been received and if so, what it is ?